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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIFTEEN INDICTED ON GUN AND DRUG CRIMES

ATF Violent Gang Task Force Seize Guns, Drugs in Early Morning Sweep

Fifteen people, some with gang ties, were indicted this week, and arrests were made this morning in Seattle, Kent, Burien, Edmonds and Des Moines, Washington in connection with a year-long investigation of a family based group dealing large amounts of crack and powder cocaine. Law enforcement executed search warrants at a number of homes, apartments and cars across King County. Many of those arrested possessed firearms despite multiple felony convictions. The investigation, lead by the ATF Violent Gang Task Force, used court authorized wiretaps to uncover the group's drug dealing and illegal weapons sales and possession. In one recorded phone call defendant GARY KILCUP, 39, of Edmonds, Washington, discusses how he "coulda whacked that (victim) himself," after his son was arrested in connection with a shooting. KILCUP, his sister, NICOLA KILCUP, 36, of Seattle, and her husband SHAWN VANELL PIPER, 38, allegedly were key players in the distribution ring. One of their primary cocaine suppliers JOSE A. MORALES VICTORIA, 37, of Des Moines, Washington was also arrested. All of the defendants arrested today made their initial appearances in U.S. District Court in Seattle today at 2:30.

"Drug trafficking and firearms are a deadly mix," said U.S. Attorney Jeffrey C. Sullivan. "The ATF Violent Gang Task Force is targeting those who prey on our communities. The conversations recorded on the court authorized wire tap make clear the threat posed by those willing to protect their drug network with violence."

"This operation has shown the diversity of the gang members in our communities. It included almost all ethnicities in the gang culture as well as both genders," said Special Agent in Charge of the Seattle Field Division, Kelvin N. Crenshaw. "Just today the Task Force seized eight firearms, more than \$40,000 cash and a large amount of cocaine. The totals are still being tallied."

According to records filed in the case, PIPER and NICOLA KILCUP allegedly sold crack and powder cocaine from their residence and from PIPER's business Extreme Auto Detail, located at 11027 A, 1st Avenue S., Seattle, Washington. The auto detailing business gave the case its name "Operation Clean Ride." Throughout the investigation PIPER, KILCUP and others sold cocaine to confidential informants. Many of the sales were captured on audio and video. Some of those arrested today are affiliated with area street gangs.

These are the defendants indicted by a federal grand jury:

SHAWN VANELL PIPER, 38, Seattle
NICOLA KILCUP, 36, Seattle

GARY KILCUP, 39, Edmonds
JOSE MORALES-VICTORIA, 37, Des Moines
CEDRIC BARQUET, 37, Seattle
TANFRED ARNEZ RUSSELL, 36, Seattle
JOHN GERALD HOUSE, 38, Burien
CHRISTOPHER TERRILL SCOTT, 33, Kent
LAVELLE DANIEL, 31, Seattle
DEANDRE OFFORD, 31, Seattle
PAUL PETERSON, 38, Burien
DAIMA ANDERSON-ROSS, Seattle
JERMAINE SATTERWHITE, 34, Seattle
ALICIA SYKES, 36, Seattle
JODIE TAYLOR, 35, Seattle

The defendants are charged with Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine and Crack Cocaine. Individual defendants are charged with a variety of counts including Distribution of Cocaine, Distribution of Crack Cocaine, Possession of Cocaine and Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Offense, and being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm. The conspiracy charge is punishable by up to life in prison.

The charges contained in the indictment are only allegations. A person is presumed innocent unless and until he or she is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The case was investigated by the ATF Violent Gang Task Force which includes agents and officers from the Seattle Police Department, the King County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Department of Corrections, Kent Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Additional assistance was provided by the United States Marshal's Service Pacific Northwest Fugitive Task Force, the SeaTac Police Department and the Des Moines Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Vince Lombardi and Todd Greenberg.

For additional information please contact Emily Langlie, Public Affairs Officer for the United States Attorney's Office at (206) 553-4110.